

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I live on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Our cable carrier, Charter Communications, is possibly the worst cable company I have ever encountered. Reception on the high channels is poor, new channels are seldom added, ownership has changed three times. We have no local over the air channels of any consequence.

As a result, I chose satellite. I use DISH network. Compared to local cable, they have better reception and more channels. However, DIRECTTV has some channels DISH does not carry; both networks also duplicate 'locals', which leaves out Norfolk, VA on both networks. A merger would provide more channels versus the local cable, and would allow the smaller Norfolk market to be carried by the new entity.

We also have only one viable broadband internet option here-Sprint. A merged satellite carrier would allow a strong second option (Charter Cable does not offer Internet service in this market).

I view satellite as a competitor with cable and the local telco--not as two entities that must compete with one another AND with cable AND the telco. This is one rural market client who supports this merger--strongly!

Sincerely,

Russell Lay
409 Raceview Ct
Nags Head, NC 27959